

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1002, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARIES OF
MASS MOVEMENT FOR SOVIET
JEWISH FREEDOM AND FREE-
DOM SUNDAY RALLY FOR SO-
VIET JEWRY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to throw my endorsement behind a resolution of great import—one that highlights the struggle of Jewish freedom in the former Soviet Union and pays tribute to one of the great civil rights movements of the last century. The will and forbearance of man and woman is best evinced when they are faced with adversity. Victims to a repressive anti-Zionist state that stripped its Jewish citizens of their rights to emigrate, be autonomous, and engage in religious prerogatives, Soviet Jewry channeled the strength of its community into one, harmonious dissenting voice. That takes awe-inspiring courage, and it more than merits our recognition today.

Only two decades have passed since a full quarter of a million of our frustrated brothers and sisters marched on Washington, demonstrating remarkable solidarity in numbers and unmatched political resolve. Only two decades before that, the seeds of focused defiance were being sown, a movement young in age but ripe at heart. And now, four decades later, the legacy of that effort has come to brilliant fruition. A renaissance of Jewish culture has cemented itself in the modern-day consciousness of the Russian people—and that is an exceptionally good thing.

Let us echo that spirit of unity, camaraderie, fraternity, and in one voice, honor their memories that inspire and move us to this day. Mazel Tov, my friends.

HONORING DR. HESHAM GAYAR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Hesham Gayar, the outgoing President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Dr. Gayar is to be honored at the annual President's Ball this Saturday, November 3rd.

Dr. Gayar studied medicine at the Alexandria Medical School. He completed residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York, and M.D. Anderson in Houston, where he was chief resident from 1985 to

1986. He completed a Fellowship in Clinical Oncology and Pediatric Oncology at Ohio State University Hospital. Relocating to Michigan, Dr. Gayar currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at McLaren Regional Medical Center and the Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Owosso Memorial Cancer Center.

Over the years Dr. Gayar has served as a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society from the Genesee County Medical Society, and as the Chair of the Board of the Community Wide Hospital Oncology program. He is the principal investigator for the Radiation Therapy Oncology group, works with the Southwest Oncology group, and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel project. He is also the former President of the Islamic Medical Association.

Dr. Gayar is committed to improving the quality of life in the larger community. Governor Granholm appointed him to the Board of the Commission of Arab Chaldean American Affairs. He serves on the Board of the American Arab Heritage Council of Flint, the Flint Islamic Center, and the Grand Blanc Islamic Center, he is the former Chair of the Genesee Academy Board of Directors, and is a former board member of the Islamic American University. In 2006 the American Arab Heritage Council named him "Physician of the Year." Dr. Gayar is married to Randa and they have four children, Omar, Adam, Lena and Kareem.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Dr. Hesham Gayar for his leadership to the Genesee County Medical Society. Both physicians and patients have benefited from his compassion and steadfastness. He brings empathy, dignity, and responsibility to every role he assumes. I wish him the best as he continues his service to the Flint community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1011 taken on Monday, October 29, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3867) to update and expand the procurement of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3867, Small Business Contracting Procurement Improvements Act of 2007.

Among the many improvements, this bill modernizes programs to increase opportunity to disadvantaged businesses that do not have proper access to the \$410 billion federal marketplace.

This bill expands procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal. Further, it creates penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by President. Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Additionally, the bill modernizes the 8(a) Business Development Program. This program is to single most important vehicle for minority business participation in federal contracting. The 8(a) program has contributed to the development of over 20,000 firms including many in Texas over the past two decades, and these firms have received almost \$100 billion in federal contracts.

Over 9,000 firms are currently participating in the 8(a) program. More than half of all federal minority business contracting is accomplished through the 8(a) program. Despite these impressive statistics, the program has not been revamped since 1988.

Earlier this year, I joined my colleague Rep. SILVESTRE REYES in sponsoring H.R. 1611, the 8(a) Modernization Act which was incorporated into this legislation.

I would like to thank the Chairwoman, Ms. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for her work not only for this legislation but also her long time advocacy for our Nation's small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH L.
GOTTESMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Ruth L. Gottesman and to congratulate her on becoming the first woman and the first faculty member to be elected Chairperson of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Board of Overseers.

As a premiere institution for medical education, basic research and clinical investigation, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine has produced more than 7,000 of our Nation's foremost clinicians, biomedical scientists, and medical educators. Among its pioneering educational initiatives, Einstein was among the first of the major medical schools to integrate bedside experience with learning, bringing first-year students into contact with patients and linking classroom study to case experience.

Dr. Ruth Gottesman has served as a distinguished faculty member of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for over 30 years. In addition, Dr. Gottesman was a founding director of the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities, a division of Einstein's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center established to provide interdisciplinary services to individuals of all ages. Her exemplary effort on behalf of those with learning disabilities has earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends alike. In her career, she serves the most vulnerable in our society with the highest level of compassion and commitment.

Dr. Gottesman has balanced this distinguished career with an equally impressive family life. Married to David for 57 years, she has also been a loving mother to three children—Bob, Alice, and Bill—and grandmother to seven grandchildren—Ben, Sarah, Alan, Clara, Zachary, Eleanor, and Jessica. While she and her family share a passion for traveling and learning about other people and places, Dr. Gottesman remains committed to a variety of causes in her own community including various charitable organizations, schools, and museums.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Dr. Ruth Gottesman for an unparalleled career fighting for those who are unable to fight for themselves, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous accomplishments.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE HILL'S JOSEPH CRAPA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a true patriot and committed public servant, the late Joseph Crapa. He boasted a litany of high posts and honors to his name, but it was as Chief of Staff to Senator CHARLES SCHUMER that he so ably served my native New York. Staffers like Mr. Crapa are the backbone of Capitol Hill, the too-often unsung movers and shakers who work feverishly on behalf of the American people.

Known as a fast-talking guy from Brooklyn, Mr. Crapa's magnetism drew a series of glowing compliments—solid, wise, shrewd. He loved politics and government, but remained loyal to his unwavering moral core. He was an intellectual powerhouse, relentless in his defense of the little guy, but with the practical political know-how to get things done. As the executive director of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, his last post, he agitated for a cause near and dear to his heart: the battle for religious freedom worldwide.

He is today—and always—remembered and appreciated as a man of conviction and a wealth of knowledge.

"SALT-OF-THE-EARTH" STAFFER CRAPA
MOURNED ON HILL

Joseph Crapa, the executive director of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, died Thursday from cancer at the age of 63.

Crapa, who had led the commission since 2002, previously worked for 25 years in various Capitol Hill-related jobs, including House committee offices, Member offices and in the Congressional relations shops of several executive branch agencies.

Immediately before coming to the commission, Crapa worked as chief of staff to Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

"Joe was a pure salt-of-the-earth human being," Schumer wrote in an e-mail. "To know him was to love him."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) noted in a statement that she knew Crapa during his service in the Senate and the Clinton administration. She lauded Crapa's "indomitable spirit and determination" during the fight to secure funding for New York in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Crapa also served as counsel and staff director in the office of Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.) for 10 years, before leaving in 1997 to become associate administrator for congressional and intergovernmental affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Obey said he was dubious when he first interviewed Crapa for a job in 1987.

"I thought, 'There's no way in God's green earth I can work with this fast-talking guy from Brooklyn,'" Obey said. "He was about three times as intense as I was. But his solidity, wisdom, and shrewdness came through, and we ended up not only working together for 10 years, but becoming close friends."

Obey said Crapa was a "superb example" of the importance of the role staffers play on the Hill.

"There are a lot of people who never serve in elected office—staffers and people in various agencies—who love this country, are dedicated to doing things right and to advancing the cause of regular people," Obey said. He said Crapa "loved politics, he loved government, he had a moral core to everything he did. He was an intellectual and, at the same time, a hard-nosed practicing pol in the best sense of the word."

In a statement released by USCIRF on Thursday, Chairman Michael Cromartie said Crapa "had an unwavering, principled commitment to . . . protecting religious freedom worldwide." He and Vice Chairwoman Preeta Bansal both commented on Crapa's "sharp political instincts," which Barisal said were "crucial to him in this sensitive area."

Over the course of his career, Crapa worked as the top congressional relations official at the EPA, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and in the No. 2 spot in the Department of Commerce's congressional relations office.

He also spent time at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, where he was the executive director of the Speaker's Club, and as vice president at lobby shop Dutko and Associates. For 6 years during his time in Obey's office and at the EPA, Crapa taught part-time as adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University. He was a John C. Stennis Congressional fellow in 1995–1996.

Crapa was born Dec. 16, 1943, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He received his bachelor's degree from St. John's University in New York City and went on to receive a master's degree from Duke and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona; all three degrees were in British and American literature. He married Barbara Vaskis in 1967; the couple had one son, Judd, and two grandsons, Sebastian and Baird.

A memorial service for Crapa is scheduled for 1 p.m. today at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill.

JAMES P. CHEEVER 100TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate James P. Cheever, who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at Tony Reception Palace, in Hialeah, FL. Many of his family, friends, and church friends will be in attendance to celebrate this momentous occasion. He was born on November 7, 1907, in Sylvania, Georgia. He is the middle child of six siblings, with one remaining sister, Ruby Cheever.

He was educated in the Sylvania school system. At the age of 22, he met and married Edna Mae Striggles. They were married on December 22, 1929. They shared 58 years of marriage until her death in 1987. Their union was blessed with four children, James P. Cheever, Jr., Henry Richmond Cheever, and Margie Beatrice Mayes. Their daughter Fronita Cheever, died at a very young age.

He has 10 grandchildren, Gregory Cheever, Gail Washington, Glenda Jameson, Anthony Cheever, Aundrea Mayes, Carey Cheever, LaEatrice McMurray, Laketia Cheever, Vincent Cheever and Tonya Linde. He has 25 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

As many others did during the early 1900s, he earned a living by farming land in Georgia. Although farming provided a modest living, he and his wife wanted a better quality of life for their family. In November of 1947, he moved his family to Miami, Florida.

After arriving in Miami, he worked several odd jobs to support his family and he started working for a major construction firm, Benidick and Jordan Construction Company, in 1950. He was the only African-American man hired at that time to tie steel for the company and became the top man for the construction company.

In 1962, he left the construction field to work for the Dade County Public School system. During his employment with DCPS, he worked as Lead Custodian at Brownsville Junior High School and Carol City Elementary. He retired from DCPS in June of 1973. After retirement, he launched his own Lawn Service and was known by many for the meticulous lawn care he provided his customers.

James is a God-fearing man who dedicated his life to the Lord at a very young age. While living in Georgia he was a member of Lawton Grove Missionary Baptist Church. When he relocated to Miami, he moved his membership to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty City, where he became a deacon on January 14, 1954, under the leadership of Rev. James E. Brown.

Several years later he moved his membership to become a founding member of Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Brownsville, under Pastor Rosco Jackson. He still attends services regularly and currently serves as the oldest deacon on the deacon board, under the leadership of Rev. Sherman Mungin.

James and his wife bought their first home in Florida, in what was known as Brownsville, in 1956. The property was acquired by the County, to build a public park, in 1969. They